

Graduation Plan

Master of Science Architecture, Urbanism & Building Sciences



Graduation Plan: All tracks

Submit your Graduation Plan to the Board of Examiners (Examencommissie-BK@tudelft.nl), Mentors and Delegate of the Board of Examiners one week before P2 at the latest.

The graduation plan consists of at least the following data/segments:

Personal information	
Name	Sophie van Riel (together with Willie Vogel and Italo de Vroom)
Student number	4286537
Telephone number	
Private e-mail address	

Studio		
Name / Theme	Explore lab /-	
Main mentors	Ir. Suzana Milinovic	Chair of Urban Design/Theory & Methods, OPVIS Architecture
	Ir. Klaske Havik	Associate professor Chair of Methods & Analysis + Head COST project
	Ir. Roel van der Pas	Head Explore Lab
Second mentor	Ir. Jan van de Voort	Building Technology
Argumentation of choice of the studio	We, Italo de Vroom, Willie Vogel and Sophie van Riel, are currently working together on our graduation project. The aim of our research is to investigate the concept of feeling at home on a local scale and at the same time feel at home in the larger scale of Europe. The reason why we started this project is our interest in the European Union as a home for so many differences. Explore Lab gave us the freedom to start this project and pursue to work on a subject we are truly passionate about.	

Graduation project	
Title of the graduation project	Someone // Somewhere A narrative for the European Union, a home for so many differences.
Goal	
Location:	European Union (Netherlands, Germany, Austria, Slovakia, Croatia, (Serbia), Bulgaria, Romania) > During the period of November and December we visited 18 cities throughout the EU along the Rhine and Danube.
The posed problem,	For us, the European Union - enabling cooperation between countries - has been a given. Crossing borders and experiencing other cultures has for our generation always been easy. This given is fascinating and valuable to us. However, today we feel a shift in mentality on the EU scale, by which people are more directed towards their own 'safe places'. This shift in mentality seems to narrow down the perspectives in which others are experienced, and manners of behavior are changing in order to save 'our culture'.

research questions and	Is it possible to generate a place (i.e. a building), which is related to different social levels (local / EU), related to multiple actors and their stories, in which one can feel at home, feel safe?
design assignment in which these results.	The design will be based on a new story/narrative. This narration aims at finding common ground between all the different cities we visited.
<p>[This should be formulated in such a way that the graduation project can answer these questions. The definition of the problem has to be significant to a clearly defined area of research and design.]</p>	

Process
Method description
<p>Preliminary research: The first part of our research was a literature study to investigate the concepts such as narrative, home and place (see next part). These concepts are valuable to our research to understand the concept of the European society and how it may evolve, in such a way that we can translate it through architecture and design. During the second part of our project we conducted a field research in 18 cities along the Rhine and Danube to research the European narrative. Beforehand, we made an analysis on the European Union (her aims, goals and current situation) and a plan-analysis and a short description of the local demography and history of every city.</p> <p>Field Research: An important part of the journey was conducting interviews and interact with people along the route. We interviewed the local citizens on specific squares we selected beforehand. Furthermore, we planned group discussions and presentations at multiple universities to open an academic debate with the students and professors (see next part). The other part of the journey consisted of mapping the places we visited. We did this by means of photography, film and collecting materials.</p> <p>Design process: The conclusions of our literature and field research will be used as a foundation for our architectural design proposal. With our journey we will be able to create profiles of 18 cities throughout Europe. One profile is a fragment of the local architecture and the people. By creating the 18 profiles we will be able to build up a narrative that showcases the differences and connections between the places. As mentioned above: <i>the design will be based on a new narrative. This narrative aims at finding common ground between all the different cities we visited.</i> The narrative will define the theme/problem of the design proposal. Based on the narrative we will select the site/sites for our design and start choosing routes, functions and materials.</p>

Literature and general practical preference

Literature (among many others):

EU:

- Menasse, R.; Guérot, U. 2016. "Europe: The Reconstruction of the Free World." GreenEuropeanJournal. March. Accessed September 2019. <https://www.greeneuropeanjournal.eu/europe-the-reconstruction-of-the-free-world/>.
- Haraway, D. 2016. Staying with the trouble. London: Duke University Press.

Home:

- Massey, D. 1994. "A Place Called Home?" In Space, place, and gender, 157-173. London: Polity Press.

- G.mez Alberto P.rez. Attunement: Architectural Meaning after the Crisis of Modern Science. Cambridge, MA: The MIT Press, 2016.

Placemaking:

- Castello, Lineu. Rethinking the meaning of place: conceiving place in architecture-urbanism. Routledge. 2016
- Brislin, Paul. Human Experience and Place: Sustaining Identity. London: John Wiley & Sons, 2012.

Narrative:

- Narrative Architecture, By Nigel Coates, 2012 john willey and sons
- Havik, K. 2014. Urban Literacy - Reading and Writing Architecture. Rotterdam: nai010 publishers.
- Charley, J. 2019. "Introduction." In the Routledge Companion on Architecture, Literature and The City, by J. Charley, 1-7. London & New York: Routledge Taylor & Francis Group.
- Bemong, N., and P. Borghart. 2010. "State of the Art." In Bakhtin's Theory of the Literary Chronotope -Reflections, Applications, Perspectives, by N. Bemong, P. Borghart, M. De Dobbeleer, K. Demoen, K. De Temmerman and B. Keunen, 1-17. Gent: Academia Press.
- Bachelard, G. 1964. The Poetics of Space. New York: Penguin Books.

Square:

- Lévy, Bertrand. Urban Square as the Place of History, Memory, Identity. In: Dusica Drazic, Slavica Radisic, Marijana Simu. Memory of the City. Belgrade: Kulturklammer, 2012. p. 156-173
- Sophie Wolfrum 2014, squares, urban spaces in Europe

Practical preferences: Interviews / presentation moments at the University of Budapest, University of Osijek and University of Bucharest. Interviews with people from COST Writing Urban Places, Danurb Project, The Green European Journal and Traumnovelle.

Reflection

1. What is the relation between your graduation (project) topic, the studio topic (if applicable), your master track (A,U,BT,LA,MBE), and your master programme (MSc AUBS)?

Customarily, after obtaining my bachelor's degree in architecture, the next step would have been to start my master's in architecture, instead I chose to apply for a pre-master's in computer science. After finishing this, I realised that I missed the creative freedom too much and applied for a master's in architecture. Within my master's programme I searched for the interaction between multiple fields, for example in the form of architecture and computer science (*Studio: The Why Factory*), architecture and urbanism (*Studio: Beyond Oil*) and architecture and social science (*Theory Thesis*). Hence; one of my main interests is finding the relation between architecture and other disciplines. In this graduation studio I have the freedom to explore this interest even more; to go out in the field and gather and analyse different forms of data to form a project with.

Coming towards the end of the master program I met Willie and Italo. We share a passion for the EU and felt that together we could do something with this big topic. That our educational career went along different paths makes us only stronger as a group. In the end we see architecture as a very broad field in which cooperation has always been fundamental. So, doing our graduation in this way, as a group, in discussion with others around the EU, feels as a good warm-up for the real world.

2. What is the relevance of your graduation work in the larger social, professional and scientific framework?

Our graduation work is relevant in different ways namely: studying the European Union from the perspective of Architecture, the field trip as a research method and the use of poetic writing as a tool to translate the research into architectural design. Although much studies have already been done about the European Union, they mainly come from the social sciences. The studies that come from the field of architecture and urbanism are then focusing more on the political representation of the EU or give a historical overview of buildings throughout the Europe. We hope to bring new ideas on how to develop the EU by looking more specific in the concepts of 'place' and the 'fluidity' of people their identity. For us, and probably many other, the EU seems very abstract. Therefore, we started thinking about doing a field research to have more vivid understanding of what the EU is. Field research and site visits are really common in the architectural research and practice. What makes our research unique is that we visit a sequence of places after each other, to understand a much wider area than pure one location. Our trip through Europe can be best described as a section. We carefully describe, photograph and film what we see on our way. We perform interviews in a selection of cities. Using the fieldtrip as a section throughout a wide area is, as far as we know, a new form of doing field research. The poetic act is a relatively new concept in especially architecture pedagogy. Our professor Klaske Havik has set up a COST-action to further research the relevance of poetic writing in architecture. Our project is seen relevant for research throughout Europe since we use literary tools to make the bridge between research and architectural design.